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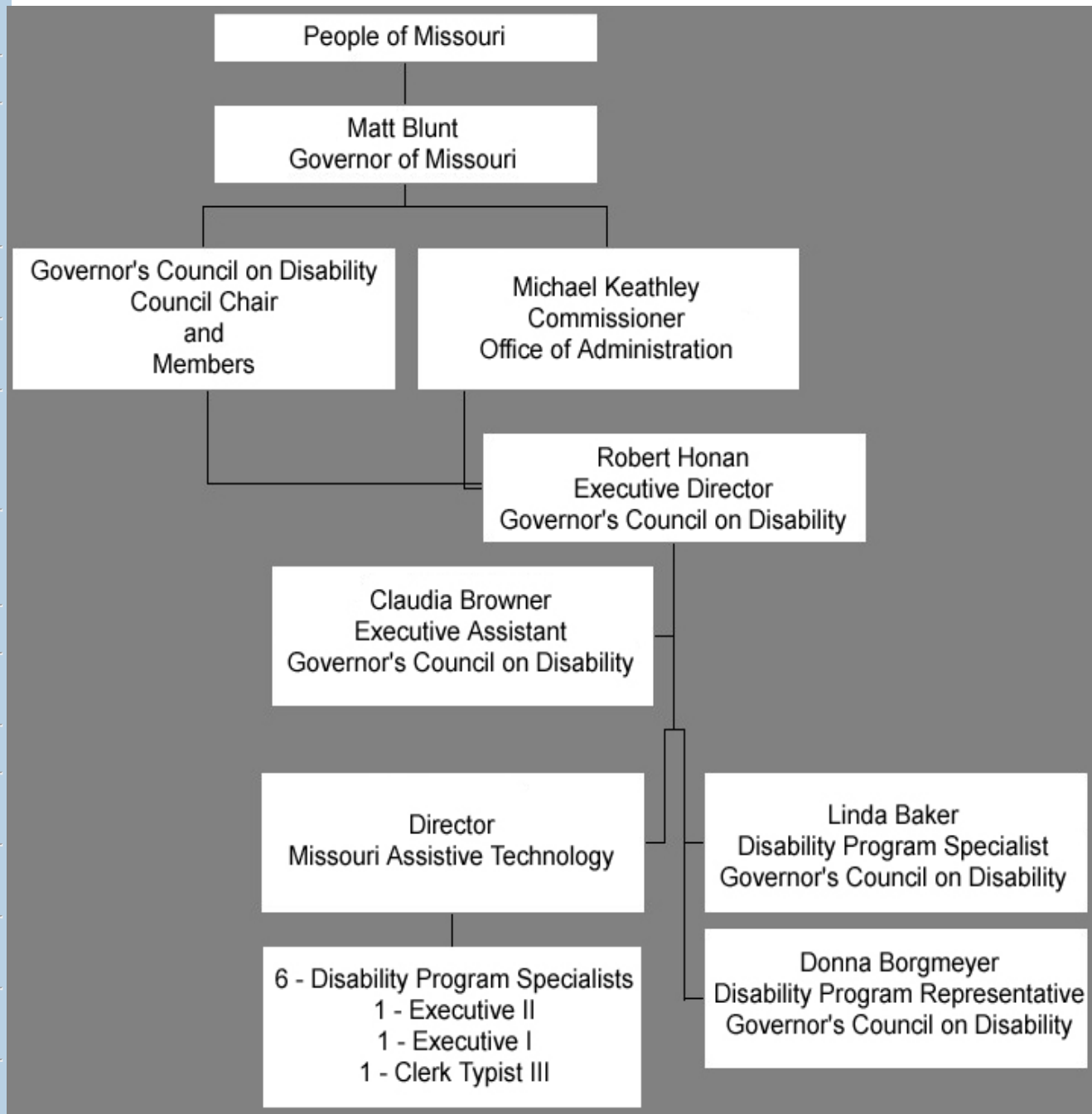
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History - Mission - Vision

History

The Governor's Council on Disability traces its roots to the World War II era. In 1947, President Harry S Truman issued an Executive Order establishing the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped. This Committee was created to assist disabled WWII veterans with re-entry into the civilian workforce. In 1949, Missouri established the state Governor's Committee to share information about work-related problems facing people with disabilities. In 1994, our statute was updated to broaden our mission beyond employment, enabling the Governor's Council on Disability to become a voice for the more than 900,000 Missourians with disabilities in all facets of life, including state government.

Mission

To provide leadership and support so people with disabilities achieve inclusion and independence.

Vision

A state where people with disabilities fully participate in all aspects of community life.

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Council Membership

- The Council is comprised of 20 members and a chairperson.
- Members are appointed by the Governor.
- The appointment of the chairperson requires the advice and consent of the Missouri Senate.
- Members represent each of the nine U.S Congressional Districts.
- The majority of members are people with disabilities.

Mr. James Tuscher, Chair

St. Louis
First Appointed: 3/11/93

Ms. Karen Benson

Mount Vernon
First Appointed: 10/9/01

Mr. Stanley Brown

St. Louis
First Appointed: 10/18/02

Mr. Mikael Fredholm

Camdenton
First Appointed: 7/6/99

Ms. Patricia Gallagher

Kansas City
First Appointed: 8/20/03

Mr. Charles Graham

Columbia
First Appointed: 4/20/01

Ms. Deanna Harper

Columbia
First Appointed: 6/11/01

Ms. Mary Ellen Jenison

Lee's Summit
First Appointed: 8/9/96

Ms. Donna Lange

Sedalia
First Appointed: 6/5/03

Ms. Stephanie Logan

Columbia

Mr. Todd Mayfield

Jefferson City
First Appointed: 10/9/01

Ms. Beth Meyerson

Warrenton
First Appointed: 12/12/02

Ms. Michele Ohmes

Kansas City
First Appointed: 7/6/99

Ms. Renee Dawn Powell

Columbia
First Appointed: 10/16/03

Ms. Susan Remelius

Columbia
First Appointed: 6/22/01

Mr. C. David Roberts

Columbia
First Appointed: 9/1/96

Mr. Joseph Sartorius, Ph.D.

St. Louis
First Appointed: 11/8/02

Ms. Naomi Soule

St. Louis
First Appointed: 9/2/99

Mr. David Terrell

Sikeston
First Appointed: 10/14/99

Ms. Lori Winter

St. Louis

First Appointed: 10/14/99

First Appointed: 1/13/00

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Technical Assistance Calls

The Governor's Council on Disability provides disability-related technical assistance to any Missourian. In calendar year 2003 Council staff assisted over 750 citizens, businesses, organizations, state departments and legislators from around the state.

There were a variety of requests from callers. The topics ranged from accommodations in school settings to information on the Family and Medical Leave Act, and even to such common questions as to how wide doorways should be for wheelchair access. The calls are so diverse that no one day seemed to duplicate itself.

One of the more common calls, about 10 percent, concerned individuals requesting information on short-term disability for pregnancy. Our answer to this inquiry was to inform the caller there is, unfortunately, no one specific program to refer them to in Missouri, unlike in other states.

Another very common question to our staff was regarding Social Security Disability. The questions included: (a) where do I apply, (b) once deemed qualified, how long does it take to get a check, and (c) how can I speed the process along.

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Presentations

The Governor's Council on Disability provides educational programs on disability rights and disability awareness to any group or organization in the state free of charge. Topics in 2003 included: Americans with Disabilities Act, Family Medical Leave Act, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Reasonable Accommodations, Governor's Council on Disability 101 and many others. We work with the requesting individual or group to learn what their needs are and tailor our educational programming to fit those needs. During calendar year 2003 Council staff presented over 73 custom presentations to over 2,655 interested individuals around the state. One of the many presentations given was to the entire

Secretary of State Office personnel on general Americans with Disabilities Act information and disability awareness training.

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Awards

The Governor's Council on Disability sponsors the Annual Inclusion Awards and Poster and Journalism Contests.

Annual Inclusion Awards

The **Annual Inclusion Awards** are awarded to recognize and honor individuals, groups, organizations and businesses for their successful inclusion of people with disabilities in the areas of employment, education, parenting and community.

The awards are in their twelfth year. For the last two years the awards have been presented to the individual/group in their own community, or during a regularly scheduled event that they are already a part of.

The 2003 Inclusion Awards winners were:

Bob Aldridge Advocate of the Year - Ms. Mary O'Brien was the recipient of this year's Bob Aldridge Advocate of the Year award. Through the years Ms. O'Brien has been instrumental in the passage of legislation that benefits individuals with disabilities and their families. She provides education to businesses on full inclusion of persons with disabilities and teaches workshops at Meramec Community College on disability awareness, culture and respect. O'Brien donates her time to numerous community organizations and is currently co-chair of the 2004 Heartland ADA Celebration. Mary O'Brien is truly a champion for individuals with disabilities.

Educator of the Year - was awarded to Marilyn Ditto Pernell, of the University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL). Pernell has been responsible for accessibility and academic accommodations at UMSL for over twenty years. Marilyn also secured a TRIO Student Support Services Grant for UMSL in 1997. Her program has been nationally recognized by the Association on Higher Education and Disability. In addition, Marilyn stresses decentralized and desegregated campus-wide inclusion of students with disabilities.

Employer of the Year - American Food and Vending was selected as this year's Employer of the Year. They not only believe in hiring individuals with disabilities, they go out of their way to help their employees even when they are not at their best. Although the company is relatively small and new, it definitely includes individuals with disabilities as part of their workforce. Ms. Michelle Lillis, General Manager, stated, "we attempt to treat our employees as if they are like anyone else."

The Excellence in Universal Design and Technology Award - was presented to the North Kansas City School District during the December Kansas City City Council meeting. The Carpentry Program of the North Kansas City School District, composed of students from Winnetonka, Oak Park and North Kansas City High Schools, completed the construction of a house based on the universal design concept. In addition, the Carpentry and Interior Design students responsible for this house have produced a structure of outstanding quality while engaged in a multi-disciplinary learning process. This construction is the first of its kind in the state of Missouri completed by a school district. Getting students at the high school level involved in Universal Design helps instill the benefits and cost effectiveness of building "lifetime homes."

Poster and Journalism Contests

Six students were honored at a Recognition Luncheon for their creative posters and essays submitted in the Governor's Council on Disability 2003 Poster and Journalism Contests. The luncheon, held April 8th, was part of the 2003 Power Up Conference at the Holiday Inn Select in Columbia. Students were asked to design a poster or write an essay based on the theme "Communities are for Everyone." Three recipients from each contest were selected to receive a \$500.00 savings bond for first place, a \$250.00 savings bond for second place, and a \$100.00 savings bond for third place. Jim Tuscher, Chairman of the Governor's Council on Disability, and Rob Honan, Executive Director of the Governor's Council gave a welcome address to 300+ luncheon guests and presented the awards to the students.

First place poster recipient was Tessa Wilson. Tessa is a freshman attending Ritenour High School in St. Louis. Second place poster contest recipient was Taylor Wysocke, a student at Francis Howell High School, St. Charles. Miss Wysocke is a sophomore. Third place recipient in the poster contest was Adrian McCroskie. Adrian is a senior at Richmond High School, Richmond.

The first place essay recipient in the Journalism Contest was Matthew Pearce, a junior at Cass Midway High School, Cleveland. Receiving second place honors in the Journalism Contest was Sean M. Keck. Sean is a senior at Lafayette High School, Ballwin. The third place recipient in the Journalism Contest was Haylee Jane Buckner. Haylee is an eighth grade student attending Meadville High School, Meadville.

The Poster and Journalism Contests reward excellence in art and journalism while increasing disability awareness among Missouri's youth. Both contests are open to middle and high school students grades 7 through 12. Information about the contests is distributed statewide to schools and local organizations. More than 300 essays and posters were submitted in the contests in 2003. The first, second, and third place posters were displayed at the luncheon.

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Publications

The Governor's Council on Disability publishes a variety of information, including the *Directory of Resources for Missourians with Disabilities*, of which 211 new copies were sent out during 2003. Also, during 2003 the *Directory* was updated on the web as a searchable database and is updated on an as-needed basis.

In addition, during the legislative session a weekly update is distributed to keep concerned individuals up-to-date on legislation that potentially impacts individuals with disabilities. Over 300 individuals receive the publication via email and over 50 receive it through the regular mail system.

The Governor's Council on Disability also provides a variety of publications that are published by various other agencies, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Questions and Answer booklets.

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Missouri Business Leadership Network

The Missouri Business Leadership Network held two events in calendar year 2003. The

first, a Mock Interview event at the Career Center in St. Louis, brought together a variety of business and service providers. Participating groups included: Boeing, Savvis Center, US Bank, United Van Lines, MERS Goodwill, Paraquad, Rehabilitative Services for the Blind and other small businesses from the St. Louis area.

In October Ameren hosted the employer recognition program. Fifteen employers were recognized in the St. Louis Metro area. Savvis Center moderated a panel of employers of best practices in hiring people with disabilities. Participating companies included: Ameren, Boeing and Available Communications.

For more information visit their website at www.mobln.org. (The website is hosted by the University of Missouri-Columbia)

The Missouri Business Leadership Network was a finalist in the 2003 USBLN Exceptional Leadership Awards. Missouri Lead employer is Maryville University. The awards have been presented annually since 1999 to honor a Business Leadership Network (BLN) lead employer whose scope of influence significantly impacted a state or local BLN and contributed to the growth of the BLN nationally.

For more information on this award or the National Business Leadership Network, visit their website at <http://www.usbln.com/>

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National Disability Mentoring Day

"America Works Best When All Americans Work," was the theme for the 2003 National Disability Employment Awareness month in October.

In 1945 Congress designated the first week in October as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." President Harry S. Truman designated the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (now the Office of Disability Employment Policy) to this carry out.

The Governor's Council on Disability not only supports and promotes National Disability Employment Awareness month, but we also work with area businesses and organizations to coordinate a variety of National Disability Mentoring Day activities, which also take place in October.

Disability Mentoring Day activities took place around the state including:

- Kansas City - Sponsored by Sprint; University of Missouri-Kansas City; City of Kansas City; Kansas City Power and Light. Speakers included Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Brooks and Olegario Cantos, General Counsel for the American Association of People with Disabilities; along with the Governor's Council's Executive Director, Robert Honan.
- St. Louis - Sponsored by Boeing Company. The students were welcomed by Carrie Bollwinkle, Boeing employee, and her team. The highlight of the event was the opportunity for students to go to the hanger, meet an F-18 pilot and get an up close and personal view of an F-18. In addition, the Savvis Center hosted a group of students. David Coverstone, Vice-President of Human Resources provide the students with a tour of the facility and made them aware of possible career opportunities.
- Columbia - Sponsored by PACE-IT office. Speakers included State Representative Chuck Graham and Elson Floyd, University of Missouri System President.
- Sikeston - Sponsored by SEMO Human Resources Managers Association. Speakers included the Governor's Council on Disability's Disability Program Specialist, Linda Baker Oberst.

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Boards and Commissions

As part of the advisory capacity of Governor's Council on Disability's function, staff serve on a variety of boards and commissions to promote opportunities in all aspects of life, including employment, transportation, recreation and housing. The following is a list of those boards and committees in which staff members served in calendar year 2003.

- ADA Celebration Committee, St. Louis
- Bi State Advisory Committee, St. Louis
- Blind Literacy Task Force, Jefferson City
- Cardinals Access Committee, St. Louis
- Disability Policy Congress, Jefferson City
- Employment Peer Connection, St. Louis
- Governor's Council on AIDS, Jefferson City
- Heartland Productive Coalition, Kansas City
- Heritage Trail and River Walk, Kansas City
- Housing Consortium, St. Louis
- Independent Living Resource Center, Jefferson City
- Informed Choice Training Workgroup, Jefferson City
- Kansas City Transportation Authority , Kansas City
- LEAP Project, St. Louis
- Lincoln University 504/ADA Committee, Jefferson City
- Mayor's Committee on Disability, Kansas City
- MDA Awareness Task Force, Kansas City
- METRO Advisory Committee, St. Louis
- Missouri Parent's Act, Jefferson City
- Missouri Ticket to Work Coalition, Jefferson City
- Missouri Training and Employment Council, Jefferson City Governor's appointee
- MOTASH, St. Louis
- MS Society, St. Louis
- National Association of Social Workers, St. Louis
- Nelson Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City ADA Advisory Board
- Olmstead Stakeholders Group, Jefferson City, St. Louis
- Personal Independence Commission Community Education Workgroup, Jefferson City
- Share-A-Fare (Paratransit), Kansas City
- St. Louis County Commission on Disabilities, St. Louis
- St. Louis Transitional Council, St. Louis
- Statewide Emergency Management Planning Teams, Statewide
- Statewide Independent Living Council, Jefferson City Governor's appointee
- Universal Design Housing Network, Kansas City

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Legislative Priorities 2004

Each year the Governor's Council on Disability discusses and votes on legislative priorities for the forthcoming legislative session. The 2004 Governor's Council on Disability legislative priorities are:

Funding/Appropriations

- Increase state revenue through an amendment of the "Hancock amendment," which defines a use for excess collections (i.e. highway fund, medical fund, etc.) in lieu of refunding to tax payers.
- Restore Medicaid spenddown to its previous "incur" debt status.
- Increase state revenue through development of state income tax

- calculations which are independent of federal income tax calculations.
- Request full funding for all Centers for Independent Living.
- Increase (restore) funding of Non-Medicaid Eligible "slots" to that of July, 2002.

Health Care and Personal Assistance

- Retain dental and/or optical Medicaid coverage for adults.
- Secure funding for enabling legislation passed in 2001, to increase the Medicaid income eligibility over a three year period for persons with disabilities and seniors from 80% to 100%.
- Require health insurers to cover hearing aids for children.
- Raise asset limits for Medicaid to \$2,000 per individual and \$4,000 per couple.

Olmstead

- Additional increase in funding for all direct care workers in home and community based settings in keeping with original Olmstead Commission recommendations.
- Develop grant program to encourage one floor of all new and existing homes to be of universal design in keeping with "Lifetime Homes" concept.

Mental Health

- Mental health parity, i.e. access to treatment equal to those with physical health problems.

Education

- Restore language in HB 2023 setting the special education service delivery requirement at "Maximizing capabilities" instead of an "appropriate education" as it was changed to this year.

Employment

- Maintain funding for "Ticket to Work Medicaid Buy-In for the Working Disabled."

Services for People with Disabilities

- Address statewide need for accessible transportation.

Crime

- Increase penalty to a "class A misdemeanor" with a maximum \$1,000 fine and up to a year in prison for persons who fraudulently issue or use a disabled plate or placard.

The Governor's Council on Disability tracks legislation impacting persons with disabilities each year. The following are the pieces of legislation which passed and Governor Holden signed into law in 2003. The bill number, sponsor and brief description of substance of bill are provided, along with when the Governor signed the legislation.

- **SB 0004 - Foster (R)**
Modifies law regarding hiring of employees for in-home and home health agencies
9/15/03 Signed by Governor Holden
- **SB 0266 - Shields (R)**
Requires DMH to develop plan for developmentally disabled on waiting lists
7/1/03 Signed by Governor Holden
- **SB 0307 - Steelman (R)**
Modifies rebate for prescription drugs under Missouri Senior RX Program

- 6/16/03 Signed by Governor Holden
- **SB 0407 - Klindt (R)**
Modifies requirements for health insurance coverage of clinical trials
7/1/03 Signed by Governor Holden
- **SB 534 - Cauthorn (R)**
Relating to the Omnibus Nursing Home Act
7/1/03 Signed by Governor Holden
- **SB 556 - Kinder (R)**
Modifies various provisions relating to protection of the elderly
6/16/03 Signed by Governor Holden
- **SB 618 - Kennedy (D)**
Requires Department of Mental Health to develop a state suicide prevention plan
7/11/03 Signed by Governor Holden
- **HB 59 - Johnson (D-61)**
Establishes a state suicide prevention plan, an Advisory Council on Pain and Symptom Management and a plan to address DMH waiting lists
7/11/03 Signed by Governor Holden
- **HB 491 - Rupp (R)**
Allows biennial registration for driveaway licenses and windshield placards
7/3/03 Signed by Governor Holden
- **HB 511 - Deeken (R)**
Changes various election laws to comply with the Help America Vote Act of 2002
7/11/03 Signed by Governor Holden
- **HB 655 - Wilson (R)**
Revises certain special education services
6/26/03 Signed by Governor Holden

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Personal Independence Commission

The Governor's Council on Disability provides staff support to the Personal Independence Commission (PIC).

The PIC has completed its second year of work. As established in Executive Order 01-08 signed by Governor Bob Holden, the PIC is charged with advising the Governor on necessary policy and program changes to assure that Missourians of all ages and disabilities have access to a range of community support services. The PIC includes individuals with disabilities, family members of people with disabilities, senior citizens, advocacy groups, the lieutenant governor, four members of the general assembly and representatives from the Departments of Social Services, Mental Health, Health and Senior Services and Elementary and Secondary Education.

The PIC continued work on the priorities established in 2002, which included a universal application form, an informed choice process and a guide to home and community-based services.

The PIC focused energy on "Informed Choice" this year. In a time of state budget crisis, the members believe that one of the most important tasks we can undertake is to make sure all citizens are informed of home and community care options that will allow them to live in the least restrictive environment that will meet their needs. Home and community services are a vital component to the continuum of services and care for our citizens, and we are working to ensure that Missouri citizens are aware of these critical services. Through the development of an Informed Choice curriculum, a pilot training, and the publication of a *Guide to Home and Community-Based Resources*, the PIC began the process of reaching more people with disabilities and seniors who are facing choices about long term care.

Co-chairs Lieutenant Governor Joe Maxwell and Kirsten Dunham sponsored a Special Projects Team, which included the four department directors and was facilitated by Lois Heldenbrand. The Special Team was formed in order to identify a lead agency and a structure for implementing PIC recommendations and the Real Choice Systems Change grant. The team developed a plan of action that included lead agencies in the areas of Personal Assistance Services; Transition from Institutions to Communities; Assuring Consumer Options Based on Needs, Choices and Capacity and Real Choice Systems Change Grant. One of the first priorities in the action plan is to implement the use of a universal application form and a shared data system.

TRANSITION

The Informed Choice work group conducted a pilot training to test the curriculum developed the previous year. Five people with disabilities from St. Louis and one parent advocate from Marshall attended the training. The parent advocate held group meetings with residents at Marshall Habilitation Center. Two of the trainees from St. Louis were able to visit people in nursing homes and refer them for transition planning. The Informed Choice work group has refined the curriculum based on the pilot trainings.

The Informed Choice Work Group is now planning to take the training statewide and focus

on "train the trainer" so there will be advocates in all parts of the state who can continue the informed choice trainings.

The work group is planning the following "training the trainers" events in 2004:

- January-St. Louis
- March-southeast
- May-western Mo
- July-central Mo

In order to make sure we include the senior community and are cross-disability, the work group will reach out to a broad array of constituencies, including, but not limited to:

- AAA's
- Regional planning councils
- Independent living centers
- Ombudsmen
- DMH regional centers
- DMH habilitation centers
- MOAIDD volunteers
- MoCAN volunteers
- Self advocates from both the aging and the disability communities

DIVERSION

The PIC also focused on making sure people with disabilities, seniors and family members have access to information about community options before they enter a nursing home, habilitation center or other facility. The *Missouri Guide to Home and Community-Based Services* was created so individuals and families could access information about all of the available services in one single document. Twelve thousand five hundred copies were printed and disseminated to state agencies as well as community organizations such as Centers for Independent Living, Senior Centers, Area Agencies on Aging and Regional Advisory Councils. The guide was also posted on the state web-site in order to reach as many people as possible. A second edition, including updated information, is being printed.

The PIC members as well as community advocates are volunteering to increase awareness of the Guide and available community options as members of a Speakers Bureau. The Lieutenant Governor's communications director conducted a training on making presentations, and the Elderly Advocate created a schedule of meetings and conferences of groups that relate to the disability and senior communities. Presentations have been made to numerous groups throughout the state.

The newly formed Community Education Work Group will build on the Speakers Bureau and develop additional strategies to increase public awareness of alternatives to nursing homes. The best way to prevent unnecessary institutionalization is to inform people of all their options.

Conclusion

As a result of the work of the Special Project Team and the PIC members, we have a system in place to increase our effectiveness and implement recommendations that will improve the lives of Missourians with disabilities and seniors. The combination of improved inter-agency coordination, lead agencies, and focused work-groups will make it easier to be an action-oriented commission.

In the next year, we will focus on finishing activities in the final year of the Real Choice Systems Change grant, expanding our informed choice and community education initiatives, and moving through the action plan developed by the Special Project Team.

With the economic recession and deep cuts in the state budget, this commission has concerns for those seniors and individuals with disabilities that receive necessary services to

maintain their health and well-being. During this time, we will continue to inform people of their options, streamline the application process and improve inter-agency coordination in order to best assist those individuals with disabilities and senior citizens. We plan to continue to work with the office of Governor Holden, state departments, members of the Missouri legislature, and interested groups and individuals to in order to provide Missouri's seniors and citizens with disabilities with a continuum of services that allows them to live in the most appropriate and least restrictive environment.

For more information on the Personal Independence Commission visit their website at <http://www.gcd.ia.mo.gov/PIC/pic.shtml>

- Monday, January 12th - 10:30 a.m., Hearing Room 3, State Capitol Building
- Monday, March 8th - 10:30 a.m., Hearing Room 3, State Capitol Building
- Monday, May 10th - 10:30 a.m., Room 450, Governor Office Building
- Monday, July 12th - 10:30 a.m. Hearing Room 3, State Capitol Building
- Monday, September 13th - 10:30 a.m., Hearing Room 3, State Capitol Building
- Monday, November 8th - 10:30 a.m., Hearing Room 3, State Capitol Building

*** Please note:** The Governor Office Building is located at 200 Madison Street in Jefferson City. There is validated parking in the city parking garage across the street. Tickets can be validated at the café on the third floor of the Governor Office Building.

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